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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 JUSE-00 FTC-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 EB-07 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 /111 W
----------042101Z 002209 /62
O 042030Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3429
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1355

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, EINV
SUBJECT: TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS COMMISSION: COLLABORATION
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: USUN 1341

1. REFTEL TRANSMITTED TEXT OF AFRICAN DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON THIS SUBJECT. COMMISSION IS NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET ON
THURSDAY, MAY 5, TO RESUME DISCUSSION AND PROBABLY VOTE ON
DRAFT.

2. WE HAVE INFORMALLY POLLED OTHER WEO DELEGATIONS. AL-
THOUGH SEVERAL ARE AWAITING FINAL INSTRUCTIONS, THE FOLLOW-
ING IS THEIR ANTICIPATED VOTE ON THE DRAFT:

AUSTRALIA - NO
CANADA - NO (BUT SEEKING AUTHORITY TO ABSTAIN)
FRANCE - NO
FRG - NO
ITALY - ABSTAIN
NETHERLANDS - NO
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SWEDEN - ABSTAIN
UK - NO

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE G-77 AND SOVIET BLOC FULLY SUPPORT
THE RESOLUTION. JAPAN PLANS TO ABSTAIN.

3. IN THE MISSION'S VIEW, THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RAISES

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TWO SEPARATE PROBLEMS. FIRSTLY, IT WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COMMISSION'S EXISTENCE INTRODUCE A VOTING PROCEDURE. (HITHERTO, ALL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN BY CONSENSUS.) THIS WOULD BE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT GIVEN THE OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION (EG. CODE OF CONDUCT).

4. SECONDLY, AS INDICATED REFTEL, THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS CONTRARY TO USG POLICY. GIVEN OUR CURRENT EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE HOPED FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING AND MODERATION FROM OUR AFRICAN COLLEAGUES. FAILING THIS, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND THE LIMITS OF OUR POLICY.

5. MISSION HAS APPROACHED KEY AFRICAN AMBASSADORS (INCLUDING HARRIMAN) TO UNDERSCORE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION AND TO URGE THEIR COOPERATION IN AVOIDING A CONTENTIOUS SHOWDOWN. WE WILL ALSO URGE IN THE COMMISSION THAT THE PRACTICE OF CONSENSUS BE MAINTAINED.

6. AS A PROCEDURAL TACTIC, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THE AFRICANS TO SIMPLY NOTE IN THE REPORT OF THIS SESSION THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS TABLED, THAT A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE INDICATED ITS SUPPORT, BUT THAT NO DECISION WAS TAKEN. WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT OF OUR INITIATIVE LAST YEAR CONCERNING ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND HAVE THE RESOLUTION REFERRED TO ECOSOC.

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7. SHOULD THE ABOVE NOT SUCCEED, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION WITH AN APPROPRIATE EXPLANATION OF VOTE. DEPT'S GUIDANCE INCLUDING POINTS FOR THE EXPLANATION OF VOTE WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, MAY 5.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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